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Joran van der Sloot's extradition underway

LIMA -- The process of extraditing Joran van der Sloot from Peru to the United States to face an extortion charge is underway. Van der Sloot, who was convicted of the 2010 murder of Peruvian Stephany Flores and is a suspect in the 2005 disappearance of American Natalee Holloway, is facing charges of extortion in the Holloway case. A federal grand jury indicted van der Sloot in 2010, alleging he tried to extort \$250,000 from Holloway's mother. **Continued on pg 2**

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Tourism executive from the U.S. and Canada are welcome to ATCA 2012



Minister of Tourism, Transport and Labor Otmar Oduber

The Annual Tourism Conference Aruba, ATCA, began sessions yesterday morning at the Westin Aruba Resort in Palm Beach with an official welcome from Aruba's Minister of Tourism, Transport & Labor, Otmar Oduber.

This year, the Aruba Tourism Authority received nearly 90 representatives of major tourism partners from the U.S. and Canada, such as online tour services, airlines, and wholesale tour operators. They gather together annually to discuss the state of the industry, network, and brain-

storm a bit regarding Aruba's tourism product.

This year, they were introduced to ATA's recently placed New York representative, Neville Every, who acted as MC for the opening ceremonies, along with Aruba's new advertising agency, The Concept Farm, and new P/R company, Zimmerman.

Official welcomes from Aruba's tourism executives included updates on the past year's performance, and projections of what is expected from the U.S. and Canadian travelers over the next year. These presentations were done by ATA CEO Ronella Tjin Asjoe-Croes, Aruba Air-



Dr. Robertico Croes

port Authority CEO Peter Steinmetz, who can always be counted on for wry, amusing observances and presentations, along with his Head of Airline Marketing, Jo-Anne Arends.

Jim Hepple, CEO of the Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association, AHATA, extended an official welcome, and the morning ended with a presentation called "Winning the Future," by guest keynote speaker Dr. Robertico Croes, Interim Chair Tourism, Events and Attractions, Associate Director Dick Pope Institute for Tourism Studies, Rosen College of Hospitality Management. He reiterated the findings of a study done over several months, commissioned by the Ministry of Tourism, and his recommendations in drafting a strategic plan for this pillar of the island's economy.

The days of the ATCA were often described by the speakers as a mutual journey, during which they will learn from and enlighten each other on the various aspects of what is changing and expanding on Aruba, as well as what potential travelers are expecting and require.

Continued on page 3

Dutch PM sees fresh polls for September

THE HAGUE (AFP) - Outgoing Prime Minister Mark Rutte told the Dutch parliament yesterday he expected fresh polls to be scheduled for September after his government's collapse over austerity measures.

"I can imagine that we will decide on Friday (at a cabinet meeting) to hold elections on September 12," he said after a parliamentary debate, adding: "I don't see any polls before the summer."

Earlier in the day he called on Dutch lawmakers to support his package of budget cuts after his far-right ally Saturday dumped talks aimed at steering Europe's fifth-largest economy back into eurozone deficit targets.

The day after he submitted

his government's resignation to Queen Beatrix, Rutte yesterday spelled out his determination to gain approval for his austerity package by the end of the month, in line with a eurozone deadline.

But Geert Wilders, the leader of the far-right Freedom Party who effectively pulled the rug from under Rutte at the weekend, warned that he was in no mood to change his mind and support the cuts which he has already rejected.

Rutte's government had been one of the most outspoken critics of eurozone countries which had built up debt details but analysts say it will become a laughing stock if it cannot agree on its own spending cuts.


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TNO and University of Milan embarking on special research project



ORANJESTAD -- Last Monday morning at the Dr. Edward Chung Center for Innovation, the Prime Minister of Aruba indicated that TNO and the University of Milan are embarking on a joint research project.

TNO, which is also situated in the Dr. Edward Chung Center for Innovation, together with the University of Milan submitted a report in which they are soliciting the sum of a few million Euros for the funding of research projects. The project, dubbed "The Green Aruba Project" submitted a petition for 4.7 million Euros. Should this request be granted, it would be valid for 42 months.

The three objectives of the project are: Technical Environ-

mental, Regional Research and Education Institute; a major impact on sustainable development of Aruba and other islands in the region; Higher education job opportunities and small business opportunities.

In keeping with the rules of Eucarinet, they can expect a response to their petition during the second half of 2012.

Eucarinet is the platform created by the European Union for dialogue with the Caribbean. Eucarinet has very large sums of money available in a fund designed exclusively for use for scientific research. Aruba may also make use of these funds using set procedures. In order to adequately educate Aruba on exactly how

to access these funds, two experts from the organization was brought here by the Aruba government. These experts will offer a special seminar and workshop to all stakeholders to teach them how to prepare reports soliciting these funds.

Reportedly, between the years 2007 to 2013 there are several billion Euros that have not yet been used. What's more, for the next period to expire in 2020, there will be 80 billion Euros available. These are huge sums of money, and if Aruba succeeds in obtaining just 1% of this that would be extremely great!

Regarding the seminar held on Monday, at the University of Aruba, that was to provide an explanation of the 7de

Kader program, a program for subsidized funds, which was 50 billion Euros which, by the way, was not completely used.

At the same time they spoke about the new "Horizon 2020" program which will contain some 80 billion Euros for the period 2013 to 2020. They intend to teach Aruban organizations how to access these funds, for what type of projects these funds are available, etc.

Actually, anyone in the world can participate in this program, as long as the focus is on technology. There is no specific fund amount per region, it is dependent on each project submitted. And, what is allocated depends on the report submitted and what they want

to achieve.

According to Prime Minister Eman, if Aruba succeeds in presenting professionally prepared and accurately crafted reports, we may be able to realize different projects between Holland and the European Union on the area of technological development.

The government reported that they made good use of the expertise of TNO to prepare and present very convincing and supporting evidence for obtaining the necessary funds to accomplish the objectives they want to achieve with the project. They sincerely hope that the request will be granted and that they will get the necessary funds to execute the project as planned.

More innovation in our general medical care

ORANJESTAD -- As an improvement to our health care, Aruba has recently (last September) acquired 4 more general practitioners. Much work is also being on improving the nursing area.

The agreement with IMSAN and Baptist Health Florida entails that our nurses will receive additional courses and guidance particularly for the Oncology department. They also intend to implement a type of home care as well as

increase the care to the elderly.

There is, according to our government officials, the need to actualize the nursing profession on Aruba. For this reason there are discussions ongoing between the Hospital and the University. They are contemplating building an edifice on the Hospital grounds to be dedicated solely to the work of nursing. This is in their plans for the next 25 years. The idea is to offer the possibility for training nurses to meet the de-

mand for this entire region.

Also, the area of mental health has the attention of the government. There is a planning and budget allocated for this in 2013, and they have begun working on this together with the Capriles Clinic in Curacao.

According to the Aruba government, the general medical care on Aruba is receiving high priority and the necessary attention to ensure that we improve the quality of health care to our entire community.

Joran van der Sloot's extradition underway

Continued from page 1

Van der Sloot "offered to provide what turned out to be bogus information about the whereabouts of Holloway's remains in exchange for the money," according to the indictment. He was given \$25,000, which he used to travel to Peru to compete in a poker tournament, where he met Flores.

According to CNN, a Peru-

vian judge approved a U.S. request for "provisional detention," which is the "first step in the extradition process between Peru and the United States." A formal extradition request is expected, as is an appeal by van der Sloot, which could delay the extradition.

The 24-year-old is currently serving a 28-year sentence for

the murder of Flores.

"I think he will be extradited within the next three months," Maximo Altez, van der Sloot's Peruvian attorney, said. "He will go to trial in the United States. Once he is sentenced, he will return to Peru to finish serving his 28 years, and then go back to the States to serve whatever sentence he gets there."



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Tourism executive from the U.S. and Canada are welcome to ATCA 2012

Continued from page 1

The Minister thanked all the visiting delegates for taking the time to continue to support the island and take an interest in what Aruba has to offer, considering it a worthwhile and profitable product. He explained that the report they had commissioned has directed Aruba's tourism thrust not so much as looking to increasing numbers, though there are new facilities under construction that will allow that, but more towards enhancing the vacation experience and securing customer loyalty. The study re-

vealed that travelers, though concerned with finances, were also not deterred from spending more and traveling further to an island such as Aruba, when their expectations of an exceptional encounter were met.

Minster Oduber explained that steps have been taken to deliver enjoyable and memorable experiences, such as the Mi Compromiso (My Commitment) program inaugurated this year, which is training individuals in all island industries, directly or in-



Peter Steinments and Jim Hepple of AHATA with ladies of the ATA



ATA CEO Ronella Tjin Asjoe Croes



directly related to tourism, to be well informed and able to answer most typical tourist questions about the island's history, culture and environment.

Tourism executives spent the afternoon in one of their first marketplaces, within the Westin Ballroom, and will continue meeting with representatives from resorts and tour operators through April 26 via hotel inspections and another marketplace today at the Marriott Resort.

by Rosalie Klein



Coleen Lessard with reps of Divi Resorts

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Aruba now has a free app for iPhone and Android in 3 languages



ORANJESTAD - From now on iPhone and Android users are able to download THE ARUBA APP for free. This destination App provides comprehensive and current information about the upcoming events on Aruba and is interesting for visitors and locals.

The ARUBA APP contains extensive travel information, important phone numbers, history, where to eat, where to stay, and information about transportation, activities and

main attractions. THE ARUBA APP also contains weekly updated events, promotions and coupons. Handy features such as an exchange rate calculator, tip calculator and wheelchair accessible locations.

An innovative, fun and useful feature is Augmented Reality. When you point your phone in a certain direction, like taking a picture, all the restaurants and sights in that direction will pop up on your screen. Background information is obtained by clicking on the pop ups. This 3D feature also works when the app is offline.

The App is published by CRAPPS (Caribbean Apps. NV). CRAPPS is a DMO specialist and has the region surrounded by various leading Destination Marketing Tools, including the mobile app such as ARUBA APP. "Because the development of the apps take place in different countries, the products of CRAPPS are always up-to-date, innovative, focused on the needs of users and attractive to advertisers," stated Yvonne van Diepen, senior director of Crapps and responsible for the Aruba App.

Continued on page 5

New collection of Agua Bendita has arrived at their Paseo Herencia store

Swimsuit aficionados will appreciate the quality and original designs of Agua Bendita, the Colombian house of couture for swimwear and beach accessories exclusively available on Aruba at their signature store in Paseo Herencia Mall.

The handmade bikinis are unique, each hand crafted by Colombian artisans known for their expertise in traditional handwork and appliqué native to their country. The designs, by Catalina Álvarez and Mariana Hinestroza, who



equally stunning canvas for these unique, eye-catching designs.

Nelbett invites savvy fashionistas to come admire the new collection for 2012 that has just arrived at the Laguna Bendita shop in Paseo Herencia; the perfect way to demonstrate how very special and unique you are, and feel as gorgeous as a world famous swimsuit model.

by Rosalie Klein

began their company in 2003 while studying fashion at Colegiatura Colombiana University, rely on that quality of craftsmanship, while displaying the fresh, innovative vision of the young couturiers.

Agua Bendita beachwear is the must-have garment for celebrities showing off their beautiful bodies on the chicest of beaches. Sports Illustrated Swimwear magazine has chosen to feature them in every edition since 2007, and the famous publication's 2010 cover girl, Bar Rafael, is one of the com-



pany's signature models. That year, three Agua Bendita designs, the Biscuit, Fiesta and Napoleon were featured in the ultimate swimwear showcase.

The 2012 edition has the stunning Kirby Griffin modeling an Agua Bendita, in 2011 it was Hilary Rhoda in Bendita Francia. Their agent in Aruba, Nelbett Perez, feels that Aruba's own former Miss Universe contender, Tracy Nicolas, provides the line of gorgeous bikinis and resort wear an



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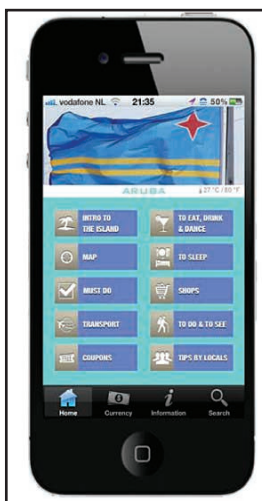
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Aruba now has a free app for iPhone . . .

Continued from page 4

Although the development and operation of the apps take place regionally, the apps are completely focused on the local market. There is a category 'Tips by Locals' where various Arubans mention their relationship with Aruba and share their special places and experiences.

ARUBA APP pays special attention to local developments and events so that the app will be valuable for both locals and travelers. Updates of the apps



are done automatically, without a long wait or annoying push messages.

Because the specialization of CRAPPS is especially focused in further development of destination apps, the App will be constantly renewed. In the near future the webapp will be introduced for Black Berry and Window users. All versions can be used in Dutch, English and Spanish. A future version in German or Portuguese is certainly a possibility.

Caribbean Mercantile Bank shares again with the community



Every year Caribbean Mercantile Bank contributes generously to the Fiesta Rotaria, and among others, buys raffle tickets to help the Rotary Club achieve their goals.

This year the grand first prize of a Chevrolet Silverado 2011 was won by the bank! However, realizing that there are organizations in need, the

bank decided to donate their prize to the National Parke Arikok Foundation.

CMB's Cisco Quant presented the brand new 2011 Chevrolet Silverado to National Park Arikok director, Roy Maduro.

Mr. Quant also seized the opportunity to invite the entire Aruban community to visit the

CMB for their upcoming "Oranje Boven Auto Bazaar" on Saturday April 28th. Everyone will be able to view the latest models of Stern GM's autos and at the same time take advantage of the attractive car loans available from CMB for the purchase of a brand new vehicle.

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Mexico, 17 nations protest Arizona immigration law

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Mexico and 17 other countries have said Arizona's law against illegal immigrants, to be considered today by the US Supreme Court, could damage their diplomatic ties with the United States.

In an argument to be put before the top US court, Mexico said the controversial law "poses an imminent threat to Mexico-US bilateral relations."

"Mexico cannot conduct effective negotiations with the US when the foreign policy decisions of the federal governments are undermined by individual states," said a 45-page document from Mexico opposing the Arizona legislation.

The Supreme Court announced in December that it would review the 2010 law

passed in the southwestern state, which would allow police to stop suspected illegal immigrants and demand proof of citizenship without probable cause.

The law -- portions of which have been suspended after court challenges by President Barack Obama's administration -- is among several pieces of state legislation that the White House says infringe on the federal government's authority to regulate immigration.

Haiti and 16 other countries joined Mexico in its opposition to the Arizona legislation.

"It is therefore essential to the governments and the US that the interests of each country be expressed in 'one voice,'" said a joint statement motion from the 16 nations, which included Argentina, Bo-

livia, Brazil, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras.

The Supreme Court ruling on the Arizona law, along with its judgment on Obama's healthcare reform, could radically affect politics in the run up to November's presidential election.

Last year, lower courts opted to strike sections of the law they said would place a burden on legal resident aliens in Arizona, where a third of the 6.6 million people is foreign-born and more than 400,000 are illegal immigrants.

But Arizona appealed, claiming that "the federal government has largely ignored Arizona's pleas for additional resources and help" in stemming the tide of illegal immigration into the state, which borders Mexico.

US says 'Mad Cow' discovered in California

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The US Department of Agriculture yesterday revealed that it had detected a case of Mad Cow disease in California, as it scrambled to reassure consumers that beef is still safe to eat.

"The US Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has confirmed the nation's fourth case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in a dairy

cow from central California," a statement said.

US officials said the cow did not enter the food chain and "at no time presented a risk to the food supply or human health." "Milk does not transmit BSE," it added.

Previous Mad Cow discoveries in the United States, Britain and elsewhere have caused massive disruptions to the food trade worth billions of dollars and resulted in the

slaughtering of entire herds of cattle.

The US government, cognizant of the risks of a panic, was at pains to stress everything is under control.

"Evidence shows that our systems and safeguards to prevent BSE are working, as are similar actions taken by countries around the world."

Samples from the US animal were sent to a laboratory in Ames, Iowa, where they proved positive for a rare form of the disease. The test results are now being shared with labs in Britain and Canada.

"The US Department of Agriculture remains confident in the health of the national herd and the safety of beef and dairy products. As the epidemiological investigation progresses, USDA will continue to communicate findings in a timely and transparent manner."

The Ukraine's jailed ex-PM goes on hunger strike

KHARKIV, The Ukraine (AFP) - The Ukraine's jailed ex-premier Yulia Tymoshenko has been on a hunger strike for five days to protest her treatment and demand an end to political repressions, her lawyer said yesterday.

The flamboyant but divisive 2004 Orange Revolution leader was jailed for seven years for negotiating a gas deal with Russia while prime minister in 2009 that the new administration says was against the Ukraine's interests.

Tymoshenko, 51, has complained of debilitating back pain in jail and asked to have treatment abroad. She began a



hunger strike after she said she was forcibly taken to a local hospital

New safety measures ordered following Concordia shipwreck

PARIS (AFP) - Cruise operators, whose bookings dropped after January's crash of the Costa Concordia luxury liner, yesterday called for new safety measures at sea, including more life jackets on ships.

The European Cruise Council and the Cruise Lines International Association, representing leading cruise companies around the world, said operators must also bring in restrictions on who has access to the bridge of cruise ships during manoeuvres, and make sure all officers are made aware of their ship's route.

"There's no such thing as perfect safety as the Concordia incident showed. But we are doing what is possible" to improve matters, European Cruise Council chairman Manfredi Lefebvre said in a statement.

The Costa Concordia hit a



reef off an Italian island and capsized with the loss of 32 of the 4,229 people aboard.

Nine people are being investigated in relation to the disaster, including the ship's captain, Francesco Schettino, who is said to have re-routed his ship and steered it too close to the Tuscan island of Giglio.

A woman friend of the captain was also said to be on the bridge at the time of the collision.

The number of life jackets should also be increased aboard ships to ensure there are many more than the number of people aboard, the associations said.



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International News

Rutte urges Dutch MPs to back austerity package

THE HAGUE (AFP) - Outgoing Prime Minister Mark Rutte urged lawmakers Tuesday to support his package of budget cuts despite the collapse of his government, warning the Netherlands was building up debts it cannot afford.

The day after he submitted his government's resignation to Queen Beatrix, Rutte spelled out his determination to gain approval for his austerity package by the end of the month in line with a European Union deadline.



Geert Wilders, the leader of the far-right Freedom Party

But Gert Wilders, the leader of the far-right Freedom Party who effectively pulled the rug from under Rutte at the weekend, warned that he was in no mood to change his mind and support the cuts which he has already rejected.

Rutte's government had been one of the most outspoken critics of eurozone countries which had built up debt details but analysts say it will become a laughing stock if it cannot agree on its own spending cuts.

The turmoil in the Netherlands helped trigger sharp falls in European stock markets on Monday although they did stabilise on Tuesday.

"I am standing here in the hope that parties will be willing to work with the cabinet to do what is essentially neces-

sary for the Netherlands," Rutte said in an address to the Lower House.

"Standing still is not good for the Netherlands," said the premier, who is trying to at least deliver a draft of his austerity package to the European Commission by next Monday, April 30.

"The economy is stumbling, the labour market is under pressure and public debt is growing faster than we can afford it," he said.

"It's a reality that we cannot escape."

The draft has to include measures to reduce the country's public deficit, which reached 4.7 percent last year -- and bring Europe's fifth-largest economy back to within the eurozone ceiling of 3 percent of gross domestic product.

Although not part of Rutte's coalition, the Freedom Party had been an ally in parliament and thus ensured the government's survival.

But given its determination not to cut Rutte any more slack, the premier must now secure support from opponents who will be looking to take power from his People's Party for Freedom and Democracy (VVD) in early elections.

Wilders, an arch eurosceptic best known for campaigning against Islam, quit talks with Rutte and a junior coalition partner on Saturday, saying his supporters could not accept the austerity package.

"My loyalty lies with the Netherlands first, not with Brussels," Wilders said in his speech to parliament on Tuesday. "We are the masters of our own homes, the masters in our country."

Among the most contested measures are a rise in VAT, a freeze on civil servants' pay and a cut in spending in both



Outgoing Prime Minister Mark Rutte

the health and development sectors.

"This is a package that will hit citizens too," continued Wilders. "We have said from day one and we have repeated several times during the seven weeks (of negotiations) that the three percent rule is not sacrosanct to us," he added.

Highlighting the size of the task facing Rutte, Labour Party leader Diederik Samsom, who represents the largest opposition in parliament, suggested the Netherlands should "not cling at all costs" to the three percent target.

Stef Blok, leader of the VVD's parliamentary caucus, indicated that the party was ready to negotiate but he stressed: "It's clear the deficit must be reduced."

Both Labour as well as Rutte's VVD party favour polls before the summer although the Electoral Council, which is responsible for organising the vote, said it believed September 5 is the earliest realistic date.

The final decision however, rests with the outgoing Dutch cabinet.

Wilders too said he favoured early polls, but a survey conducted Sunday by a national polling agency gave his PVV party only 19 seats, five less than in the 2010 elections.

UK government under fire for Murdoch empire links

LONDON (AFP) - Rupert Murdoch's son James got regular confidential information from the British government over News Corp.'s bid for full control of pay-TV giant BSkyB, a press ethics inquiry heard Tuesday.

In a dramatic day of evidence at the Leveson Inquiry, James Murdoch denied that culture minister Jeremy Hunt had been acting as a "cheerleader" within government for the now-abandoned takeover bid.

It would have been Hunt's role to make a quasi-judicial decision on whether to allow the deal to go through.

A string of emails from News Corporation's director of public affairs Frederic Michel, read out at the Royal Courts of Justice and later published, revealed the closeness and frequency of his contacts with Hunt's advisors.

Murdoch also admitted he had discussed the proposed takeover at a 2010 Christmas party with David Cameron -- though the prime minister has previously denied having had an "inappropriate conversation" with Murdoch about the bid.

News Corp. was eventually forced to drop its attempt to take control of the highly profitable BSkyB in July last year after its British newspaper wing was engulfed by a phone hacking scandal at the News of

the World tabloid.

Earlier this month, James Murdoch quit as chairman of BSkyB, the British television giant in which his father's News Corp. has a 39-percent stake.

However, James Murdoch remains deputy chief operating officer of the US-based News Corp..

As the string of emails from Michel was aired, bookmakers stopped taking bets on Hunt leaving the government.

Speaking to reporters, Hunt denied the "cheerleader" accusation and promised to make a statement later.

James Murdoch was grilled about his family's links to politicians as he gave evidence under oath at the inquiry, which was set up in the wake of the hacking scandal.

Rupert Murdoch is due to give evidence today and Thursday.

James Murdoch revealed that he had a total of 12 meetings with Cameron before his Conservative Party came to power in a coalition government with the Liberal Democrats at the May 2010 general election.

The News of the World was closed down in July amid a storm of revelations that it illegally accessed the voicemail messages of a murdered teenage girl and the families of dead soldiers.



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Health & Living

Hungary to punish diabetics if they don't stick to diet

(AFP) - Hungarian diabetics who fail to stick to their diet will be deprived of more modern treatments from July, under a government decree published Monday aimed at cutting health spending.

Diabetics undergo a blood test on average every three months and those who score high levels of glycemia more than twice a year could be turned away from treatments with analog insulin -- more efficient but also more expensive -- and left with the less efficient human insulin, under the new rules.

Currently, all diabetes treatments are subsidised by the state, which hopes to reduce health spending with the new rules.

The decree does not however apply to children under 18 and those in a life-threatening condition.

According to the decree in the Official Journal, drugs for Hungary's 500,000 diabetics cost some 30 billion forints (100 million euros, \$131.7 million) every year.

"Taxpayers' money should not be spent on patients who don't cooperate with their doctor," it said.

Laszlo Bene, head of the diabetes department at Budapest's Peterfy Sandor hospital, warned however that the short-term gains would be coupled with long-term financial pain caused by future spending on treating secondary effects that might follow the use of human insulin.

"Only 30 percent of patients are able to control their diet."

"Discipline is not the only factor but also the lack of money for good quality foods," he told the daily Nepszabadsag.

The national diabetes society backed the decree however.

"The analog insulin treatment should be used only for those who cannot achieve correct blood sugar levels... by other treatments," the society's president Gabor Winkler told Hungarian news agency MTI.

May 1st, Black Jack Classic Tournament

April 27 - May 01, 2012







Total prizes:

\$10,000

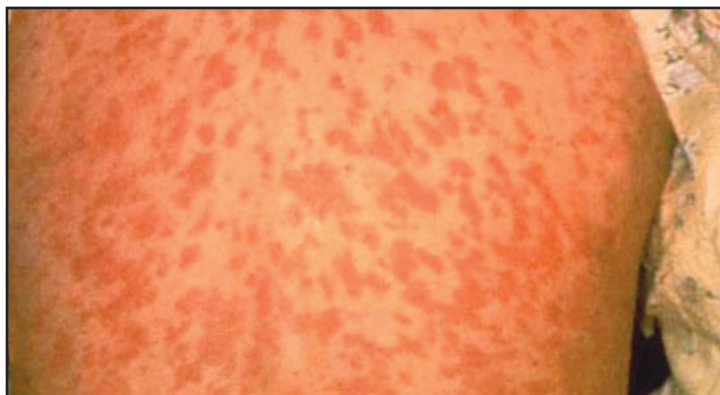
Entry-Fee: \$150
Re-buy: \$150



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4th	\$700
5th	\$500
6th	\$450
7th	\$350

UN misses measles target with India the big laggard



PARIS (AFP) - UN countries have failed to meet a target for reducing the death toll from measles, mainly due to poor

vaccine coverage in India and outbreaks in southern Africa, The Lancet reported on Tuesday.

In 2008, all members of the UN's World Health Organisation (WHO) endorsed a target of reducing measles mortality by 90 percent by 2010 compared to levels in 2000.

In 2010, global deaths were 139,300, 74 percent less than the tally of 535,300 in 2000.

India accounted for 47 percent of measles deaths in 2010 and African countries for 36 percent, according to the study, led by Peter Strebel of the WHO's Department of Immunisation, Vaccines and Biologicals.

It said it expected a substantial fall in measles mortality in India by 2015 under a 2011-2013 plan to immunise 134 million children.



Sci-Tech

Scientist unveils mind-controlled robot for paraplegics



GENEVA (AFP) - A professor at a Swiss university on Tuesday unveiled a robot that can be controlled by the brainwaves of a paraplegic person wearing an electrode-fitted cap, news agency ATS reported.

A paralysed man at a hospital in the town of Sion demonstrated the device, sending a mental command to a computer in his room, which transmitted it to another computer that moved a small robot 60

kilometres (37 miles) away in Lausanne.

The system was developed by Jose Millan, a professor at the Federal Polytechnic School of Lausanne who specialises in non-invasive interfaces between machines and the brain.

The same technology can be used to drive a wheelchair, Millan said.

"Once the movement has begun, the brain can relax,

otherwise the person would soon be exhausted," he said.

But the technology has its limits, he added. The brain signals can be scrambled if too many people are gathered around a wheelchair, for example.

Besides making paraplegics mobile, neuroprosthetics could be used to help patients recover lost senses, researchers said.

Professor Stephanie Lacour and her team are working on an "electric skin" for amputees, a glove fitted with tiny sensors that would send information directly to the user's nervous system.

Eventually, researchers say they hope to create mechanised prosthetics that are as mobile and sensitive as a natural hand, Lacour said.

Other researchers at Lausanne are working on enabling paraplegics to walk again with electrodes implanted in their spinal cords.

"The goal is that after a year of training with a robotic aide, the patient will be able to walk without a robot. The electrodes would stay implanted for life," said Professor Gregoire Courtine.

He said he is currently setting up clinical trials and hopes to run tests at Zurich's university hospital within a year.

Skype debuts on PlayStation Vita game handsets



(AFP) - Skype made its debut Tuesday on PlayStation Vita, making its leading Internet video or voice calling service available on Sony's sophisticated videogame handset.

A Skype application for PS Vita devices began rolling out to PlayStation Store in the United States and was due to become available for download in Europe and Asia on Wednesday.

The service includes free calls between Skype users along with video call capabilities that take advantage of front- and rear-facing cameras

on PS Vita handsets. Low rates are charged for other calls.

Sony's slick handheld videogame gadget hit major markets around the world in February as the Japanese entertainment titan bucked a trend towards play on smartphones.

Sony packed movies, music and the Internet into PS Vita handsets, along with what it called the "biggest and best launch lineup" of games in PlayStation history.

Vita handsets that link to the Internet with Wi-Fi only were priced at \$250 in the

United States, while models also capable of connecting to 3G telecom networks were priced at \$300. AT&T is the exclusive US carrier for Vita.

The Japanese film, music and consumer electronics colossus has sold more than half a million Vita devices since it launched in Asia in December, according to executives.

Vita made its worldwide debut in Japan on December 17 and was released elsewhere in Asia close to the end of the month.

The next-generation PlayStation Vita aims to take a bite out of the growing smartphone games market.

US technology giant Microsoft last year made an \$8.5 billion deal to buy Skype.

Skype users can make low-cost or free phone calls over the Internet using their computers or smartphones. Skype bypasses the standard telephone network by channeling voice and video calls over the Web.



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Shell to buy Cove Energy for £1.12 bn

DEN HAAG (AFP) - Royal Dutch Shell on Tuesday said it had agreed to buy Cove Energy, a London-listed company with key operations in East Africa, for £1.12 billion (1.37 billion euros, \$1.81 billion).

The cash offer worth 220 pence per Cove share is an improvement on Shell's informal bid worth 195 pence per share made in February. Cove will be taken over by the Anglo-Dutch energy group's Shell Bidco subsidiary.

"Further to the announcement of a possible offer ... for Cove on 22 February 2012, the boards of directors of Cove and Shell Bidco are pleased to announce that they have reached agreement on the

terms of a recommended cash offer to be made by Shell Bidco for the entire issued and to be issued share capital of Cove," Royal Dutch Shell said in a statement.

"East Africa is a major prospective hydrocarbon province, which has seen a significant increase in exploration activity in recent years. Shell already has interests in Tanzania, and the acquisition of Cove would mark Shell's entry into exciting new hydrocarbon provinces in Kenya and Mozambique," it added.

Cove executive chairman Michael Blaha said the offer provided "very significant value" to his company's shareholders.

Hundreds evacuated as Russian village flooded

KADOM (AFP) - Over 1,000 homes were damaged as a river in central Russia's Ryazan region rose, displacing 300 people and turning streets into canals, officials said Tuesday.

The local Moksha river rose earlier this week, flooding the village of Kadom and cutting off access.

"1148 houses, populated by 3545 people, were flooded in Kadom following the rise of the river," Ryazan region's emergency ministry branch said in a statement.

319 people have been evacuated from the area, and another 350 have been working

non-stop, building levees out of sandbags and other materials, the statement said.

Locals however expressed frustration that emergency workers arrived only two days into the disaster after the rapid onset of spring swelled the river with melted snow, starting the flood last Thursday.

While river levels have stopped rising, locals are forced to travel by boat, on horseback or by bicycle while wearing tall rubber boots and even wet suits. Some houses are still halfway under water, an AFP correspondent observed during a visit.



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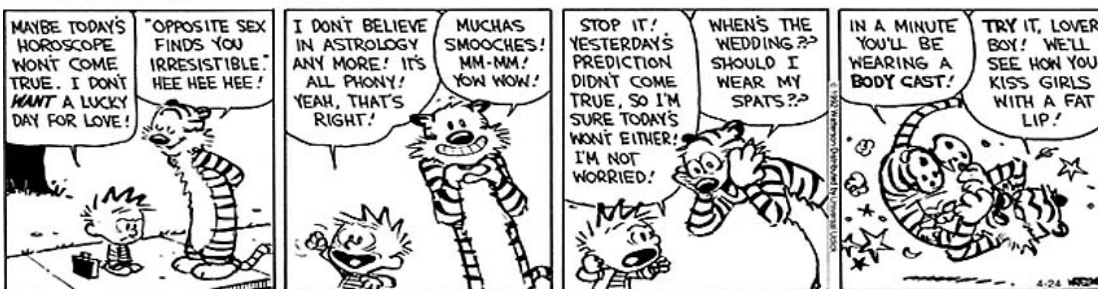
PICKLES



MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBS



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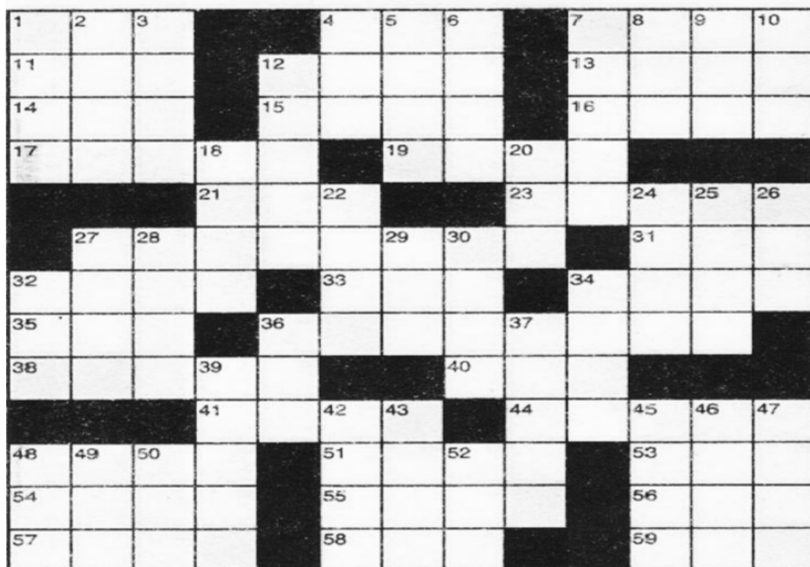
1. Slang for "up to date"
4. Teen's favorite sta.
7. Chums
11. Big monkey
12. Tiny opening
13. Monogram unit (abbr.)
14. Shad product
15. Epps or Sharif
16. Industrious insects
17. Loafs
19. Suffering
21. Affirmative
23. Standards
27. Extends and covers a part of
31. Org. that helps
32. Advanced motorists
33. Pounds (abbr.)
34. Bird's beak
35. "___ Tin Tin"
36. Write "thier," for instance
38. Actor McQueen
40. Asian holiday
41. Article
44. Disentangle
48. Oast
51. Jazzman Thelonious
53. Wide street (abbr.)
54. A Great Lake
55. Frosts

56. Five-and-___
57. Open spaces
58. Boxing outcome (abbr.)
59. Spanish "Mrs."

DOWN

1. Spy Mata ___
2. Music lover's gadget
3. Pare
4. Apple pie baker
5. Ambush
6. ___ Cruz
7. Van Cliburn's instrument
8. "Raggedy" doll

9. Used a match
10. Rds.
12. One who models
18. Looks over
20. Those holding office
22. "___ Know" (2 wds.)
24. Racetrack enclosure
25. Teen's hangout
26. Mineo or Maglie
27. Sad notice, for short
28. Wind indicator
29. Six-pack muscles, informally
30. Attention-getting sound
32. Married woman (abbr.)
34. Greek letter
36. Converged
37. Brightens (up)
39. Climbing plants
42. Send out
43. Make fun of
45. Winemaker's cauldrons
46. Constantly
47. Singer Horne
48. Frat party receptacle
49. Author Levin
50. Gloss recipient
52. Modern (prefix)



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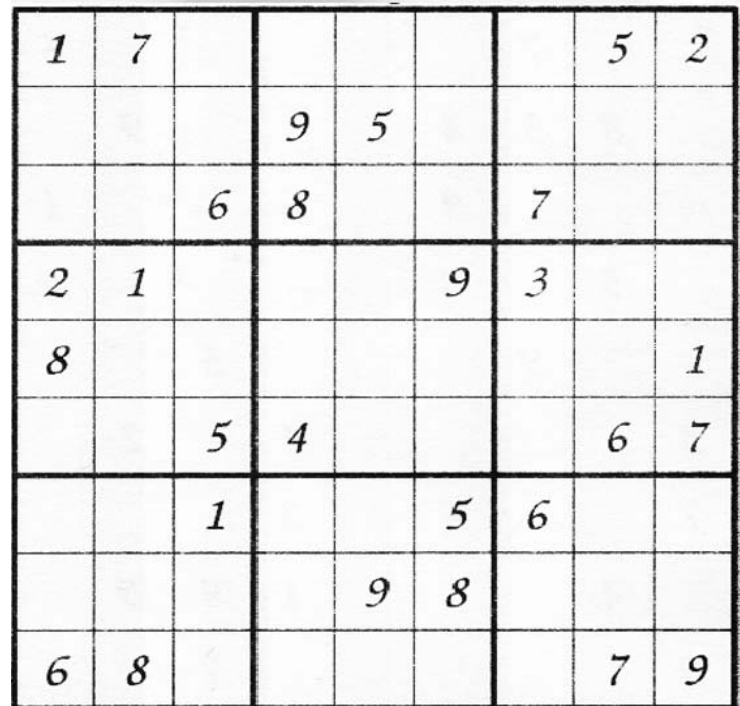
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

6	2	5	7	1	3	8	9	4
4	3	1	8	6	9	5	2	7
8	9	5	2	7	1	6	4	3
1	9	7	1	8	7	5	6	4
1	7	6	5	2	5	4	9	8
5	8	5	6	9	4	7	1	2
5	6	2	7	1	8	9	7	5
9	1	7	4	5	6	8	2	3
2	5	8	9	7	1	6	4	3

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

Finance

South America eyes \$21 billion infrastructure projects

SAO PAULO (AFP) - South American policymakers and corporate leaders unveiled a multi-billion dollar plan yesterday to integrate the region through 31 priority infrastructure projects to be completed by 2022.

The scheme, which will require more than \$21 billion in private and public investment, was unveiled at a seminar organized by the powerful Federation of Sao Paulo State Industries (FIESP), the 12-nation Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) and the Brazilian government.

It calls for the construction of 2.4 kilometers (1.6 miles) of bridges, 14 kilometers of tunnels, 57 kilometers of ring roads, 360 kilometers of transmission lines, 379 kilometers of river dredging, 1,500 kilometers of gas pipelines, 3,490 kilometers of waterways,

5,142 kilometers of highways and 9,739 kilometers of railway lines.

"The time has come to face up to our lack of regional infrastructure," said Carlos Cavalcanti, head of FIESP's department of infrastructure.

"We need to link countries and border regions, modernize freight transport and improve comfort for passenger traffic, unite a continent and bring our peoples closer together. This is our challenge," he added.

UNASUR, set up in 2008, groups Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guiana, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Antonio Simoes, Brazil's deputy minister for South America, Central America and the Caribbean, said the scheme was in line with President Dilma Rousseff's strategic vision anchored on "pragmatism and solidarity."

"Brazil wants to grow but we don't want to grow alone."

We want to grow with our neighbors," he added.

Noting that a key challenge for Brazil was to defend its domestic industries in the face of aggressive Asian competition and a "currency war" waged by rich countries, Simoes said South America, with its 400 million people, offered the best outlets for Brazilian goods.

He pointed out that Brazilian exports to the region jumped from \$7.5 billion in 2002 to \$37 billion in 2010.

Paraguay's Public Works and Communication Minister Cecilio Perez Bordon stressed the need for a strong public-private partnership to finance the projects articulated around eight axes that will notably link the region's Pacific and Atlantic coasts.

And Colombia's former foreign minister Maria Emma Mejia, the UNASUR secretary-general, emphasized "the need for civil society participation" in the integration process.

Mexico laments US empty-handed for IMF crisis fund

(AFP) - Mexican President Felipe Calderon voiced disappointment yesterday that the United States sat out an International Monetary Fund donor drive to raise money for a global anti-crisis firewall.

"We committed more than \$430 billion to the IMF, we have more than doubled the support to the IMF in order to prepare this institution to support local actions in Europe or other parts of the world."

"This is a very important news and you need to realize this: that support to the IMF is without the US, unfortunately" Calderon told the US Chamber of Commerce.

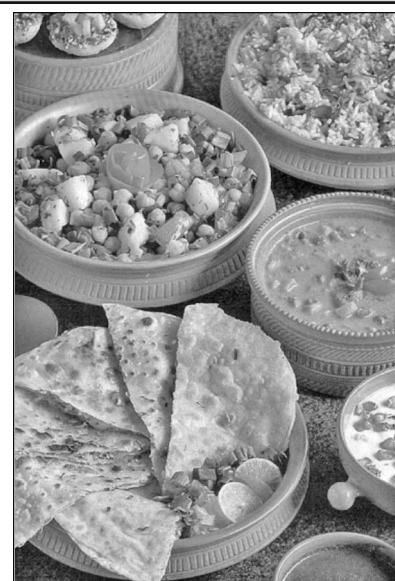
College grads face scary job stats



Photo, taken recently, shows Kelman Edwards Jr. works on his laptop in an apartment complex clubhouse near the

campus of Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, Tenn., as he searches for a job. The college class of 2012 is in for a rude welcome to the world of work. A weak labor market already has left half of young college grads either jobless or underemployed in positions that don't fully use their skills and knowledge.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer



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Benetton steps down as fashion empire struggles

UNITED COLORS OF BENETTON.

PONZANO VENETO, Italy, (AFP) - Italy's Luciano Benetton yesterday handed over the reins of his fashion empire to his son, who must relaunch a struggling brand known for its controversial ad campaigns.

Benetton, 76, who founded his clothing company with his siblings 47 years ago, appointed his son Alessandro, already the firm's vice chairman, to head up the tired business at a shareholder meeting in northern Italy. Benetton senior is to stay on at the company as an advisor.

"Alessandro Benetton will guide the evolution of the company in a scenario of changing markets, complicated by the credit crisis," the company said.

The half-century has seen the brand grow into a giant, with some 6,000 stores in 120 countries, but it has faced stiff competition from newer high street chains such as H&M and Zara, and has suffered from the eurozone crisis.

The company has also had

to deal with rising prices of raw materials such as cotton.

Benetton posted a 28 percent drop in net profits for 2011 at 73 million euros (\$96 million) on sales that fell one percent to 2.0 billion euros.

In taking over the struggling empire, 48-year-old Alessandro -- who studied at Harvard -- will have to take difficult strategic decisions which may include asset disposals.

The company is also delisting from the Milan stock exchange so the family can resume total control.

"Leaving the stock market and investing in ourselves and in the future of the group is a clear demonstration of our commitment, determination and intention to move beyond this complex phase," Alessandro said. The company would search for growth in emerging markets "including India, Russia, Turkey, Central America, South Korea and Taiwan."

He added that Benetton will not be paying a dividend "for a few years."

FOR SALE

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Canada	CAD	1.78	1.80	1.82
Britain	GBP	2.81	2.86	2.92
Switzerland	CHF	194.86	195.58	196.38
Netherlands	EUR	232.28	234.40	236.76
Sweden	SEK	25.39	26.11	26.91
Denmark	DKK	30.54	31.26	32.06
Norway	NOK	30.06	30.78	31.58
Japan	JPY	217.35	219.34	221.54

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The Albrechts renew 30 years of love and joy with the boy and girl next door



renewing their vows



Volunteer witnesses Eveline and Roxanne



Linda and Bill with their Ribbons in the Sky

Some may think that a Nicolas Spark book (or the movies made from them i.e.: "The Notebook") are kind of corny, but when that sort of poignant romantic drama actually take place in real life, it touches all who witness it.

So it was for the regular stream of islanders who stop by the Alto Vista Chapel to say a small prayer and meditate a moment. On Monday afternoon, April 23, they were surprised by a vacationing couple in white, with the invitation to

join them in a quiet moment of reaffirming their love and marriage of 30 years.

Linda and Bill Albrecht of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania have been spending around two weeks on Aruba annually for the last ten years, and with the advent of the 30th wedding anniversary, they wished to renew their vows at the place which has renewed their spirits each time, the Alto Vista Chapel. A short visit to the site and a moment of contemplation has always been a must-do with each vacation.

Linda and Bill had known each other all their lives, growing up in the same neighborhood. "All that time, we both had crushes on each other, but were to shy to say or do anything about it," reveals Linda. After high school, they had gone there own ways, but Linda went to live with her aunt while attending college, and it turned out Bill was living right across the street.

One day, Bill invited her to be a spotter while he and a friend went water skiing on his boat. "I was sitting there looking up at him, so handsome and well built; I couldn't help thinking that you could travel all over the world looking for that special person, and sometimes they are right there in front of you-or living next door." Bill was obviously having similar thoughts, and they have been blissfully wed since 1982.

"This was kind of a tough year for us," observed Bill, "we had both spent time in the hospital, and felt we needed something special." Their son had gotten married, which was a good thing, but he moved far away for his work, which made it bittersweet.

"We felt we needed to do this, renew our vows and renew or spirits," explains



It is official

Linda, "and we were suggesting all sorts of places to go to do it, when we looked in each other's eyes and it just clicked-we were of one mind-the only place that was right was the Alto Vista Chapel on Aruba."

They may have started out with only the two of them, but they had brought bubbles and favors, in hopes that anyone at the chapel would join in the spirit of the moment, and they were not disappointed. Those coming to worship were so touched by their devotion they were more than happy to join in; and two island ladies, Roxanne and Eveline, were honored to be asked to be their official witnesses.

"This could not have been more perfect," agreed Linda and Bill after reciting vows to the background of their "their song": Stevie Wonder singing "Ribbon in the Sky." "It was everything we ever hoped it would be. We have traveled all over the Caribbean, but a friend who owns timesharing on Aruba told us it was the best of all the islands; after one visit we had to agree, we love everything about it, but particularly the friendly people. It was certainly the best

choice for us to do our renewal of vows, we couldn't ask for more."

by Rosalie Klein

15N15

15 MINUTE ENGLISH LIFESTYLE & NEWS SHOW

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Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals



Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and families, famed hotelier Ed Malone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters, caterers, airline pick-up

and drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spacious, offering privacy for parents or a few couples.

net connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a modest fee. Concierge services to arrange rental cars, spa appointments,



Beautifully appointed kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cookouts and truly savoring the island life. All homes come with cable TV, high-speed fiber-optic Inter-

activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting on line at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.



Excellent dining, charming ambiance and a breathtaking view found only at La Trattoria El Faro Blanco



Stunning sunset



Over twenty years ago, a very clever person had the idea of placing a cozy little restaurant on the top of the cliff adjacent to the California Lighthouse, offering the most stunning view of Aruba imaginable.

La Trattoria el Faro Blanco took over the location some years ago, and the restaurant's quaint trappings, superb selection and amenable staff has made it a one of the island's most popular dining spots ever since.

Savoring the sight of a spectacular Aruban sunset and the tiered layout of the eatery also makes it the ideal spot for marking a special occasion, such as an anniversary or a marriage proposal, as well as a perfect venue for weddings or a celebratory party. An extensive and diverse menu and wine list allows those planning a special festivity will be able to devise a memorable event and management is ready and willing to help you stay within your budget.

Many have taken note of this singular location as the place to go for that memorable romantic meal, and their reservation staff reports a waiting list for the rail tables that offer the best unobstructed view,

recommending reservations well in advance if this is important to you.

The restaurant is now open from early in the day for refreshments, and is the perfect lunch stop while touring, serving from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM, after which visitors can enjoy a light snack from their Pizza Mini Menu until 6:00 PM when they officially open for dinner, until 11:00 PM.

All these aspects of charming surroundings, dining al fresco with a breathtaking view (or in their enclosed air-conditioned dining room, if you prefer) and fine food makes La Trattoria El Faro the single dining experience that must not be missed before departing Aruba. Reservations can be made by calling 586-0786 or 586-0787, or via e-mail link at their website, www.aruba-latratortoria.com, where you can peruse their latest menu, as Chef Alberto is always devising some tasty new specialty to take advantage of what is fresh for the season.



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SPORTS

Football: Messi misery as 10-man Chelsea stun Barcelona



Barcelona's Argentinian forward Lionel Messi kneels down after losing to Chelsea during the UEFA Champions League second leg semi-final football match at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona .
 AFP PHOTO

BARCELONA (AFP) - Lionel Messi missed a penalty as holders Barcelona were sent crashing out of the Champions League semi-finals after 10-man Chelsea battled to a 2-2 draw at the Camp Nou here Tuesday.

Chelsea, leading 1-0 from the first leg, snatched a 3-2 aggregate win on a night of extraordinary drama which saw the Premier League side recover from 2-0 down and the dismissal of captain John Terry to reach next month's Munich final.

Barcelona looked to be cruising to victory after goals from Sergio Busquets and Andres Iniesta put them 2-0 up in the first half either side of Terry's red card for a foul on Alexis Sanchez.

But a superb counter-attack and chip from Ramires put Chelsea ahead on away goals and despite a furious Barcelona onslaught the 2008 finalists held firm.

In the dying minutes substitute Fernando Torres raced clear as Barcelona pressed for a winner and rounded Victor Valdes to kill off an epic contest.

An extraordinary first half had seen a disciplined Chelsea manage to frustrate Barcelona in the face of relentless pressure despite the setback of losing Gary Cahill to injury after only 12 minutes.

Cahill had wrenched his knee after twisting to thwart a

Barcelona attack after six minutes and attempted to battle on before being replaced by Jose Bosingwa, with Branislav Ivanovic moving to centre-back.

Despite the defensive reshuffle Chelsea's thin blue line held firm, with Petr Cech saving brilliantly with his leg from Messi on 19 minutes before Terry slid in desperately to block Iniesta's follow-up.

At the other end Chelsea were limited to pumping long clearances for Didier Drogba, who, just as he had done at Stamford Bridge a week earlier, was forced to plough a lonely furrow up front.

Nevertheless Barcelona's nervousness at Chelsea's aerial threat was plain to see, and it was a jittery punched clearance from Valdes that led to the substitution of Gerard Pique after a heavy collision with the defender.

Yet it was only to be a matter of time before Barcelona's monopoly of possession yielded its reward and the breakthrough came on 35 minutes, the start of a catastrophic period for Chelsea.

A headed Drogba clearance fell only as far as Dani Alves on the edge of the area who picked out Isaac Cuenca on the left, who in turn rolled his pass across the six-yard box for an unmarked Busquets to sidefoot home.

continues on page 15

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Wimbledon responds to calls to share continued from page 16



Second-round losers will get £23,125, a 14.9 percent rise, while third round defeats are worth £38,785, an increase of 13.1 percent.

The daily allowance paid to players in the men's and women's main draws have gone up from £170 to £200, while there is also a 21 percent rise for losers in the Wimbledon qualifying event.

The singles' runners-up will get £575,000 and beaten semi-finalists earn £287,500, both minimal rises of 4.5 percent.

"Wimbledon continues to be successful and we are delighted to share that success with the players by increasing total prize money by 10 percent, the largest increase since 1993," All England Club chairman Phillip Brook said.

"At the same time we appreciate the need to help players meet the rising costs associated with professional

tennis, so the majority of the record £1.5 million increase will be distributed to those who are knocked out in the early rounds of the Championships."

All England Club chairman Phillip Brook said he was never concerned that reigning Wimbledon champion Djokovic and his fellow stars were attempting to bully the grand slams.

"There was never talk of (strike) action from players in any discussions I have had. We had very professional discussions with all the parties and hopefully it will be received well," Brook said.

Murray said in Barcelona

where he is competing that while he had not seen a breakdown of the increase "this is something that the players wanted."

"It's good that the Grand Slams are making some changes, it can only make things better."

However, with early-round losers flying home richer than previous years despite relatively unsuccessful tournaments, Brook had to fend off accusations that Wimbledon was rewarding failure.

"I respect the comment, but for anybody who is good enough in our sport to come through qualifying or be a direct entry it is an achievement of itself," he said.

"You only get that opportunity by having considerable success elsewhere on the tour during the year."

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NBA: Sixers beat Nets to grab playoff berth while Spurs clinch top spot in West

NEWARK, New Jersey (AFP) - The Philadelphia 76ers earned the final National Basketball Association playoff spot in the Eastern Conference Monday and spoiled the Nets' final game in New Jersey with a 105-87 win.

Thaddeus Young recorded 15 points in the second half to help the 76ers make the playoffs for the second consecutive year and eliminate the Milwaukee Bucks from the post-season race.

The win moved the 76ers into a tie with the New York Knicks for the seventh seed with two games left in the 2011-12 NBA regular season.

Jrue Holiday and Elton Brand finished with 15 points each and Andre Iguodala had 14 points and nine assists for Philadelphia.

MarShon Brooks scored 18 points to lead the Nets, who will move into a new arena in the New York suburb of Brooklyn next season.

Milwaukee entered the night with a slim chance of making the playoffs, but Philadelphia's win officially eliminated the Bucks even though they beat Toronto 92-86 in a later game Monday.

Ersan Ilyasova scored 19 points and grabbed 15 rebounds. Monta Ellis added 17 points for the Bucks, who swept the three-game season series against the Raptors.

While in Texas, the San Antonio Spurs claimed the top seed in the Western Conference by routing the Portland Trail Blazers 124-89 Monday behind 18 points each from Tim Duncan and Danny Green.

Tony Parker finished with 13 points, seven rebounds and six assists for the Spurs who won their eighth consecutive game.

A total of 13 different San Antonio players scored points in Monday's contest at the AT&T Center arena.

San Antonio secured the top

spot in the West and the team is tied with Chicago for the best record in the National Basketball Association.

Wesley Matthews scored a game-high 24 points and J.J. Hickson finished with 14 for the Trail Blazers, who have lost six consecutive games.

San Antonio scored eight of the final 10 points in the third to lead 91-65 heading into the final quarter.

Portland cut the lead to 20, but the Spurs answered with a 12-0 run to take a dominating 103-71 lead with eight minutes remaining.

Messi misery as 10-man continued from page 14



Chelsea's Ivorian forward Didier Drogba celebrate after winning the UEFA Champions League. AFP/ Photo

It got worse for Chelsea a minute later with Terry's moment of madness, a dismissal which left the English side with neither of their starting centre-backs.

It was not long before the makeshift nature of Chelsea's defence was exposed and Barcelona struck what looked to be the killer blow on 43 minutes.

Careless play from Raul Meireles saw Messi dart forward and feed Iniesta, who sprang Chelsea's defence and prodded past Cech for 2-0.

Camp Nou rocked with delight but incredibly within minutes Chelsea were back in the game and ahead on away goals when Ramires scored.

Lampard's magnificent sent the Brazilian racing in behind the Barcelona back four and when Valdes advanced the rangy midfielder clipped an exquisite chip into the empty net for 2-1 on the stroke of half-time.

The Chelsea goal gave Barcelona something to think about but the Catalans were swiftly back into their stride in the second half.

And when Drogba brought down Cesc Fabregas to concede a penalty the match again seem to have swung in

Barcelona's favour.

Yet Messi, the most prolific scorer in Europe this season with 63 goals, implausibly crashed his spot-kick against the bar and Chelsea were let off.

But the pattern of the game had been set, and what followed was 40 minutes of excruciating tension for Chelsea as Barcelona took up permanent residence on the edge of the visitors penalty area.

Chelsea, however, somehow managed to thwart their tormentors, closing down relentlessly and never allowing Messi, Xavi and Iniesta the freedom to work the ball into dangerous positions.

All too often Barcelona's attempts to add width foundered as they cut the ball back into the middle where Chelsea's wall of bodies stood firm.

Messi had a goal disallowed before Cech tipped a shot from the Argentinian onto the post.

Then with Barcelona caught pressing upfield Torres raced away clear of the home sides defence and touched round Valdes to score and Chelsea were through.

The win came at a cost, however, with Ramires, Ivanovic and Meireles all picking up bookings that will keep them out of the final.

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YANKEES	10	6	.625	--	ATLANTA	10	7	.588	2.5
BALTIMORE	9	7	.562	1.0	NY METS	8	8	.500	4.0
TAMPA	9	7	.562	1.0	MIAMI	7	8	.467	4.5
BOSTON	5	10	.333	4.5	PHILADELPHIA	7	10	.412	5.5
Central					Central				
DETROIT	10	6	.625	--	ST. LOUIS	11	6	.647	--
CHICAGO	10	6	.625	--	CINCINNATI	8	9	.471	3.0
CLEVELAND	6	10	.375	4.0	MILWAUKEE	7	9	.438	3.5
MINNESOTA	5	12	.294	5.5	PITTSBURG	6	9	.400	4.0
KANSAS	3	13	.188	7.0	HOUSTON	6	11	.353	5.0
West					West				
TEXAS	13	4	.765	--	LA DODGERS	13	4	.765	--
OAKLAND	8	10	.444	5.5	COLORADO	9	7	.562	3.5
SEATTLE	7	10	.412	6.0	SAN FRANCISCO	8	7	.533	4.0
LA ANGELES	6	10	.375	6.5	ARIZONA	9	8	.529	4.0
					SAN DIEGO	5	12	.294	8.0

x-Clinched Playoff Spot; y-Division Champ

Tennis: Wimbledon responds to calls to share the wealth

LONDON (AFP) - Wimbledon chiefs have increased the total prize money on offer at the grass-court tournament to £16.1 million (\$26m, 19.7 million euros) in a bid to satisfy calls for a fairer distribution of the wealth at grand slams.

There has been growing unrest among players that too much of the prize money on offer at the four majors went to the top stars, who routinely reach the lucrative later stages, at the expense of the lower ranked competitors.

Late last year there were suggestions that the issue could even prompt strike action which would threaten the stability of the sport.

But All England Club officials entered into talks with Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal, Roger Federer and Andy Murray -- the top four in the men's rankings -- to debate the problem at the Indian Wells event earlier this year.

And Wimbledon has responded to the big four's demands with a 10 percent increase of £1.5 million on the 2011 total prize money in a bid to ease the lower players' complaints that the cost of living on tour wasn't matched by the rewards on offer at tournaments.

While the men's and women's singles champions will now take home a cheque for £1.15 million, a £50,000 rise on 2011, it is the players who crash out earlier in the tournament who benefit most from the changes.

An increase of 26 percent in prize money for first-round losers means they get £14,500 (\$23,400, 17,800 euros) for just a few hours unsuccessful work compared to £11,500 last year.

continues on page 14

Messi's mother wins image rights case

GIBRALTAR (AFP) - Barcelona's three-time world footballer of the year Lionel Messi's mother won a court case over her son's lucrative image rights Tuesday, when a judge in Gibraltar ruled that a sports agent had tried to rip her off.

The case centred on the sale of shares in a sports consultancy that managed the image of the Argentine player in 2005, before he shot to the height of his fame and became regarded as the best footballer in the world.

The Supreme Court in the

British territory ruled that the agent, Rodolfo Hector Schinocca, fraudulently obtained the signature of the player's mother, Celia Maria Cuccittini de Messi, and that the amount of shares allocated to him increased in circumstances that remained unclear.

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